

## CDSS PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

### BACKGROUND

The education of foster youth is an important concern for many advocates, agencies and individuals in California. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) currently addresses foster youth education through multiple Branches that host internal workgroups in partnership with counties and other concerned stakeholders. Occasionally, matters that fall beyond the scope of CDSS are referred to other state departments and/or external workgroups. CDSS seeks to systematize and coordinate how issues related to foster youth education are handled within the Department.

### PURPOSE

This protocol has been developed to ensure that when issues pertaining to the education of foster youth arise they are referred to the correct Branch or workgroup within CDSS or to an external entity, as appropriate. The goal of this protocol is to coordinate the efficient use of available resources so that efforts to address the educational needs of foster youth have the maximum effect.

### REFERRAL OF FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION ISSUES:

When an issue related to education of foster youth has been received by CDSS, the following will take place:

- 1) An internal discussion of the issue (via email, conference call or meeting) among CDSS staff will take place to determine whether or not the issue is already being addressed within the Department. This discussion will also determine the particular Branch at CDSS that should handle the issue or if the issue should be referred to a particular workgroup.
- 2) When the internal CDSS discussion determines that an issue would be better handled by an external entity or workgroup, one of the following will be contacted:
  - a. **California Foster Youth Education Task Force (FYETF)**, which includes CDSS, California Department of Education (CDE), county Child Welfare agencies, County Offices of Education, school district representatives and several foster youth advocacy and provider organizations. FYETF will discuss the issues and determine where they can best be addressed by a state department, the legislature, or a local jurisdiction. For more information, please contact Mia Stizzo at [mia.stizzo@cfpic.com](mailto:mia.stizzo@cfpic.com).

**b. CCR Education Sub-Workgroup** is a Sub-Workgroup of the CCR State and County Implementation Team Meeting. The purpose of this Sub-Workgroup is to discuss how public education organizations interact with public Child Welfare, Probation and Behavioral Health systems in the implementation of CCR. This meeting is open to stakeholders, advocates and providers. For more information, please contact [CCR@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CCR@dss.ca.gov).

**c. Improving Educational Outcomes for Children in Care (IEOCC)** is a sub workgroup of the State Interagency Team (SIT), which convenes State level public agency partners to promote cross-systems collaboration and implement policies that improve the educational success of children in care. As an approved workgroup of the SIT, IEOCC membership is composed primarily of leadership from State departments, such as CDSS, CDE, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, California Department of Justice, and the Judicial Council of California. This workgroup convenes quarterly or as needed, by invitation only, and is facilitated by the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). For more information, please contact Angela Vazquez at [avazquez@youthlaw.org](mailto:avazquez@youthlaw.org).

CDSS will notify the originator of the issue with the outcome and provide contact information for the appropriate entity.